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**HCC candidate name: *John Lockley***

Please type in the space below each question, and use as much space as you require for each answer.

Please email your responses back to [info@sustainablewaikato.org.nz](mailto:info@sustainablewaikato.org.nz) not later than **Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> 2016**.

**1. Have you personally been involved in any group, organisation or activities that relate to sustainability? Please give details and outcomes.**

- Researcher in Education for Sustainability: 2010 - 2016
- Hamilton Boys High School Gully Restoration project: Organiser 2005 – 2012.
- Te Whanau Putahi (The Family Centre in Fairfield and Enderley) Trust Board: Member 2013 – 2015. Chair 2016.
- Hamilton Combined Christian Foodbank Trust: Board Member 2014 – 2015. Chair 2016.
- Grow my own vegetable garden.
- As well as using my car I use the Hamilton Bus system and ride my bicycle

**2. Please rank, in order of (1) to (7), what you consider to be the most pressing needs for sustainability today, (1) being the most pressing and (7) the least. Please also add one of your own ideas.**

Adapting to the impacts of climate change Rank: 6

On a global scale this is going to be a major issue. This will have a large impact on the economies of the world as people change the way they do life. The impact will be particularly severe for cities that are coastal and so New Zealand will be affected quite heavily by climate change. In the context of Hamilton however, the impacts of climate change will be relatively low and adapting to this I think will be subsumed into ongoing developments, it will happen anyway. Hamilton is probably the most protected city in New Zealand from the impacts of climate change. I rate it 6 as I see it as minor for Hamilton and also as being about treating the symptoms, not the cause.

Reducing our contribution to climate change Rank: 5

If we get urban design, and the economy running with principles of sustainability driving them then our contribution to climate change will reduce anyway. For me this is something that is addressed by addressing the other things.

Sustainable economic growth Rank: 1

I understand sustainable economic growth as economics based on principles of sustainability, not end on end economic growth. If the world's economic system can be directed towards one where the principles of sustainability are part of the structure then much of the issues of climate change and inequity will lessen. Jonathon Porritt gives good

food for thought on how this might be approached within the western capitalist approach to economics in his book *Capitalism: As if the world Matters*. I

Sustainable transport options

Rank: **3**

This in my mind is not just within the city but we need to see our satellite towns of Huntly, Cambridge, Ngaruawahia, Morrinsville, Te Awamutu and Raglan as part of the 'living and working in Hamilton' mix. The public transport system of Hamilton is fair given the population of the city. I feel the system could however be improved with a view to design for experience and a view of the system from the users perspective. The most obvious next step for the Hamilton Bus network is the development of an application for cell phones that tracks your bus and lets you know where it is so you can confidently catch the bus. This is common in many cities so just a matter of implementing.

On the topic of public transport to and from our satellite towns the obvious link for the future is rail. We already have rail links to Morrinsville, Te Awamutu, Ngaruawahia and Huntly and the remnants of a rail corridor to Cambridge. I see the future being light rail links to these towns over the next 50 years.

Within the city we have a developing cycle network. The policy change that is needed is to shift the cycle lanes off the roads into their own space. I have spent time working in Sweden and Denmark where cycling is much more prolific than here and part of the success I am sure is having the cycle lanes quite separate to car lanes. As new roads are developed and as older roads are maintained this shift needs to happen.

Sustainable urban design

Rank: **2**

At the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century more people lived in cities than did not on the face of the Earth. Sustainable Urban Design is a priority. If we get this right then issues such as transport and reducing our contribution to climate change reduce anyway. Sustainable Urban Design is more than just designing sustainable and energy efficient housing and transport however. Communities are important where people feel a part of their community and have ways to express their culture and social connections. Flowing from this is peoples lived experience in their community. There is a current train of thought (no pun intended) about developing a rail link from Hamilton to Auckland for people to commute to work. This is about the most unsustainable idea I can think of as it makes very little sense economically, energetically or socially. Developing industry in Hamilton and encouraging the siting of added value industries locally makes way more sense on all levels. So sustainable Urban Design also includes designing the work environment of the citizens of the city.

Water quality in our rivers and lakes

Rank: **4**

River and lake water quality in New Zealand is affected primarily by rural industry, predominantly dairying. Though there have been major improvements made in this area over the last decades there is still room for improvement. This is becoming more pertinent at an economic level as the economic value of dairying to the nation is being matched by other industries such as tourism. As tourism, for example, increases the incentive to increase the quality of lakes, rivers and indeed all aspects of the environment of New Zealand gains importance economically.

As tourism knocks on the door of dairying as New Zealand's biggest earner it is no longer appropriate economically to allow industry, any industry, to degrade our waterways.

Other (enter here):

Rank:

*You may comment on your ranking if you wish:*

**3. In your view, what is the most effective thing Council could do to improve wellbeing for those of lower socioeconomic status in our city?**

The standard of housing is the most important thing to improve for people. Hamilton city council has sold off most if not all of its social housing stock thereby excusing itself from being directly involved. Much of the lower socioeconomic housing left in the city is owned by Housing New Zealand and much of that is in a condition that is no longer fit for purpose needing upgrading or replacement.

Council should have a role in ensuring that rental housing within the city is of a standard, that standard being in line with national guidelines. A separate rating system can be introduced for rental properties which includes a periodic inspection to ensure that the houses are up to code. Funds accumulated from the rental rating system should be available through a contestable fund to help landlords bring properties up to code.

Moreover Council should work with large landlords such as Housing New Zealand to advocate for the wellbeing of communities. In for example the current case of Housing New Zealand houses being replaced in Fairfield and Enderley, I find it totally unacceptable that families are being told they will need to shift to houses in Melville as their current house will be demolished to make way for new housing, and that this shift will be permanent. This policy removes families, often with young children from the family and community support networks that are part of their cultural and social wellbeing.

**4. What do you see as future priorities for transport in Hamilton City and what benefits do you believe these changes will bring?**

An increased public transport network is an integral part of the development of the city. I see this in a number of ways. Firstly an improvement of the bus service, with emphasis on design for experience for the users. A significant user group to potentially use our bus service are University and Polytech students and I advocate every new enrolled student receiving a 10 trip concession card as part of their enrolment as a partnership between the tertiary institutes and Council (regional). This initiative has the potential of normalising the use of buses for a large number of people by getting them to try the service and use it a number of times to embed the experience. This partnered with the development of a transport app to show where your bus actually is and predict when it will be at your bus stop will be important to capture this market.

Secondly continued development of the cycle lanes in the city. The change I advocate here over time, but with a determined policy, is the separation of the vehicle lanes and bicycle lanes. Successful example can be seen in Sweden and Denmark where cycle lanes even have their own sets of lights.

The third priority and policy is the long term development of light rail linking nodes within the city and the city to our satellite towns. Within the city light rail connecting the centre of the city with the Base is a way to link these even though they are geographically separated. The Base is established as the retail hub of the city, but the centre city can still thrive as the social and community heart of the city. Easy, economic, direct, no driving transport back and forth is the solution I believe. Dove tailed to this is the eventual link from city centre to the Claudelands event centre so that this facility is again linked to the city centre. And then layered onto this is the eventual light rail link to our satellite towns.

**5. What sustainable water management strategies do you think Council should implement?**

I think ensuring sustainable water supply is more important than water management. As the city and population is growing so fast a comprehensive strategy for ensuring water supply is imperative. One part of that is being able to measure how much water comes in and where it goes. A second part of the strategy is to increase the storage capacity of water reservoirs. The third is the development of alternate sources of water from the Waikato River, including rainfall collection.

On the issue of water meters for domestic water supply. I see this as acceptable if:

1/ The cost of implementation does not hinder the development of greater storage capacity to meet the increasing demand.

2/ The information gathered is used to manage the water supply system in a transparent way. Information is published to show how much water was treated (and its cost), how much went to domestic supply (and its cost), how much went to non-domestic supply and what those were (and its cost), and how much is unaccounted for (and its cost), and therefore attributable to wastage from the system – indicating the need for repair and maintenance.

3/ The cost of domestic supply of water that is collected from rate payers is only leveraged on the actual cost of treating and reticulating the domestic water supplied.

4/ Home owners are given alternatives to using domestic treated water for uses that are not for drinking. The city of Melbourne comes to mind as an example where this works well and is well established. This would have implications for city planning.

**6. Do you see the Council as having responsibility towards managing native biodiversity within the city? If yes, what policies would you like to see in place to support this? If no, please explain.**

Yes. The city of Hamilton is in a unique ecological and geological space with the influence of the Taupo eruption and the action of the Waikato River forming the landscape and eco-scape of the city. The Council has a responsibility to maintain this natural heritage for future generations. This natural heritage is part of our identity as a city and natural parks like Jubilee Park and Hillcrest Park with stands of Kahikatea are flag bearers for this.

**7. What strategies do you think Council should employ to minimise the City's waste?**

Kerbside recycling for domestic waste is a great way to encourage people to separate material into different waste streams. To improve on this lessons can be taken from Germany where this is encouraged even further with either direct costs (stick approach) associated with no separated waste streams or rebates gained (carrot approach) by separating wastes. Homes may be supplied with a number of non-separated waste bags and for all those you have not used at the end of the year you get a rebate.

**8. How can Hamilton celebrate cultural diversity while helping to strengthen cross cultural ties?**

The performing arts scene of Hamilton is a great space to celebrate social, cultural and spiritual diversity. Hamilton has an adolescent performing arts culture and support by Council is an important way of further developing this. The support should be across all

ethnic and social groupings as art and performance is an integral and expressive part of all cultures. This requires the support of a range of venues of differing size and style. Our performing Arts spaces should be managed on an equal footing and integrated with sporting spaces as they really are all, performing arts.

- 9. Do you think Council has a role in supporting businesses, schools, families and individuals to make more sustainable choices? If no, why not and if yes what ideas do you have to support this?**

Council has a role in vision casting what it means to be a Hamiltonian. It has a role in expressing the values and sense of place that Hamilton is about. This is already done through expressions such as the Farming Family statue and the Sapper Moore-Jones Statue. These overtly, or subtly, express the values that Hamiltonians, and more widely people of the Waikato value. As we chose ways to celebrate who we are, and chose the stories to tell about ourselves it is important to reflect on stories we want to tell about social sustainability. For example, where are the great stories we want to celebrate about our Maori heritage told on the streets of our city? They are absent at this stage.

- 10. Do you think Council has a responsibility to have policies to mitigate climate change and manage its impacts? Could you please give some examples?**

The Council has a responsibility to lead by example on this issue. The most obvious issue would be the management of the Council vehicle fleet to reduce its carbon footprint.

- 11. Suppose that your Council is considering a proposal for economic development. The development would increase regional GDP and create a significant number of jobs. It would also add significant pollution to waterways and further degrade their ecosystems. Would you support the proposal or not? What is your reasoning?**

No. I would not support the proposal in its current format. Any proposal such as this is really a proposal that has not been costed fully, some of the costs have been left off the balance sheet. If the proposal could not be costed to give economic gain taking into consideration mitigating the environmental costs, then the proposal really doesn't work financially. If however the full costing of the proposal, including dealing properly with the environmental issues shows that benefit can be made economically and socially then I would consider supporting it.

The issue of weighing financial gain versus say biodiversity loss is a related issue. Here the potential loss may never be mitigated and I would be less supportive of an economic plan that brought about biodiversity loss.